

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group

10/5/10 Conference call; 9:00 a.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon.

DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

Attendees:

DWR: Mike Ford, Andy Chu; Angela Llaban, Carol Stroble

USFWS: Nick Hindman

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Barbara Rocco, Jeff Stuart, Garwin Yip, Jeremy Redding

SWRCB: Kari Kyler, Greg Wilson

DFG: Dan Kratville

USB: Josh Israel, Thuy Washburn

Agenda:

- 1) Fishery data
- 2) Water project operations
- 3) DOSS annual report

DOSS was asked to provide names of those actively part of the DOSS team to include in the 2010 annual report. USB: Thuy and Josh; SWRCB: Kari & Greg; DWR: Mike, Andy; USFWS: Roger.

Smelt Working Group – not meeting until December 13.

Fish Monitoring: Data is from 9/19-9/25/10.

Knights Landing: Rotary screw traps installed last week. Begin monitoring this week.

Sandy Beach seine: 1 splittail

Delta Monitoring

Salvage Data: No species of concern at salvage facilities showing up from data online

FWS Sampling Data:

Beach Seines (includes Liberty Island):

9/27 & 9/28: 3 splittail, one from Liberty Island and one from Sandy Beach, water temp: 25.6 and 20.1°C, respectively.

Sacramento Midwater Trawl: No species of concern

Chipps Island Midwater Trawls:

9/29/10: 2 adult Chinook, temp: 22.3–22.4°, clear

10/1/10: 2 delta smelt, temp: 20.0°, cloudy

No other species of concern.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl: No species of concern.

Stanislaus Weir: Higher than typical flows. Flows and temperatures have not been favorable for fish counting at the weir.

9/22/10: 3 female Chinook salmon were found pinched between the substrate and the weir. The fish were dead on arrival. To prevent this from occurring in the future, buoys were placed/fastened between the weir and the substrate in places where the river is shallow.

DOSS will distribute rotary screw trap catches since beginning of August. There were no juvenile counts past the first week of September. Angela will send weekly report.

Water temperatures in Delta are higher than usual. Flows will not increase on San Joaquin R until October. No juvenile salmon are migrating yet. Tuolumne R flows will begin increasing in 2 days; not a large pulse flow. Stanislaus R flows will increase on the 15th.

Operations:

CVP:

Sacramento: 6,500 cfs

American: 1,600 cfs

Goodwin: 200 cfs

Jones: 4,100 cfs

Federal San Luis storage: 384,000 af

SWP:

Oroville: 4,500 down to 4,000 cfs

Sacramento: 6,500 cfs

San Joaquin: 1,700 cfs

Outflow: 4,000 cfs

State San Luis: 412,000 af

Freeport: 13,500 cfs

Clifton: 6,000 cfs

Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates Closure

Salinity is continuing to move into the Delta. DWR will continue to monitor. Keeping it at bay right now; stabilizing in central Delta area: Jersey, Bethel, Holland, and Bacon Is. Chloride at Contra Costa is close to 200 ml/L; came in 180 and 186 ml/L yesterday. WOMET decided no firm commitment to guarantee closure but promised to look at it with real-time data to see whether data varies from model. DSMII modeling: looking at less than 5 days out. Impact will still be there but DWR will determine how to minimize it. DWR will do another run of modeling next week; 10/11/10, will be more favorable because the tides will move out of area. WOMET is meeting next week and will give DOSS an update.

Annual Review Report:

Barb sent draft around yesterday. Timeline is short because DOSS did not find out the deadline until 9/13. Deadline is to try to get it done by 10/7. If there is any other evaluation or analysis we'd like to do, can present at the annual meeting in November. The Delta Science Program

needs to provide this material. They need a general overview of background of DOSS and what DOSS assesses to get them up to speed.

Reviewed draft outline. Standard DOSS agenda and highlighted items. The group can go to notes to see the full text; however, Barbara R. is working on compiling short descriptions of standard items and dates of when highlighted items were discussed. There are a few things that will probably drop from list (e.g., workshop).

Delta water ops: They will put data into a daily table with graphs of exports for all ops constraints and conditions.

Fish monitoring: Angela has additional data on spring surrogate loss and Delta monitoring.

Summary/recommendation: DOSS should include what went well; what could have gone better. We can ask the panel for specific feedback if needed. Reviewed issues from draft document; could potentially list other things for panel's attention. Mike Ford will write up OMR issue (transition language) – there lots of questions about transitions and moving targets. DOSS will not emphasis what needs to be resolved, but will emphasize progress. Issue example: if the recommendation for OMR is 5,000 cfs, and next week it's 3,000 cfs, how do we operate to reduce flows so quickly; we need to taper into it. Try to be more of a flexible adaptation and more proactive.

Highlight for panel: fish triggers/salmon decision tree criteria

The subgroup met re: knowledge on how trigger was developed and what it should have been. Sheila Greene could do write up; she knows more than anyone about this subject. Don't have steelhead trigger now. Second trigger recommendation made – not going to be using second trigger.

Issues: OMR transitions, fish trigger, decision tree, real-time management under RPA's data reporting, turnaround times for salvage data and coded wire-tag reading.

Salvage: fed and state facilities; data reporting issues.

Another issue: Fish monitoring summary: to include genetic analysis? This may have some long-term management implications. Size criteria isn't a good measure but can be used to make quick decisions. We must make real-time decisions but it takes 10+ days to get data. DWR should present this data in annual incidental take report. Six years of genetic data collected– have enough to support a decision on which method to use for loss calculations.

Recommendation from DOSS for coming year; compare the length at date vs. genetic race classification. Josh: will send something to Sheila, Angela, and Carol; they can determine whether they are comfortable with it and write up something.

Successes: Good communication; talk weekly. SWP outage: Agencies worked well together to protect fish and water supply during outage; recommendations from notes are generally supported by WOMT. Might state that DOSS doesn't know whether action positive but we make the decisions and the operations are changed to try to minimize take (adaptive management/proactive). Not sure whether recommendations are beneficial. BO states to evaluate success of RPAs. Actions were developed to meet the objectives but we can't always

confirm whether they are effective. DOSS will ask the panel to look forward to next water year to determine effectiveness.

Also, if panel has any ideas on how to improve effectiveness, DOSS would be interested in hearing it; how to be more effective in these particular issues.

Barb will send out report in advance. If there any issues, members will send notes back to her. She will send out most complete version so that group can review complete version and will put out a call for final comments on Thursday. We will try to get annual report out on Thursday, if possible.

Next meeting: 10/12/10 at 9:00 am.